

Gislingham C of E Primary School

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LEAF Education
Demonstration School



'Belong, Believe, Become'

25th May 2023

May Newsletter

Message from Mr. Benstock

Dear Families,

Another half term seems to have flown by and it seems as though we are finally starting to see some summer term weather. Please remember to send your children in with a sun hat because outdoor learning is still a priority for us!

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all the families who volunteered and supported FOGS last weekend with the painting and maintenance work around the Reception Class! Wow... it looks fantastic and shows again how much this school is at the heart of our community!

I also want to extend my thanks to Mrs Beards, who has been instrumental this year regarding the organisation of Gislingham's participation in a multitude of sporting events. Many children have benefitted from their involvement in sporting activities across the county from orienteering to rugby; tennis to boccia. There have been some recent successes and many more events to come. I intend to do a Gislingham's Year in Sport article in July, where all participation and successes will be shared.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and remember, if you need any support at any time, please do not hesitate in coming to see me.



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Year 6 SATs

During SATs week there was a lot of news regarding how stressed and upset children across the country were due to the 'pressures' of SATs. Mrs Stevens would like to make the following statement:

We would like to thank the year 6 parents for their support during SATs week. The children came in confident, well rested and relaxed. They were and still are a credit to you.

We believe this extract from a poem sums up the atmosphere around school last week.

**SATs don't measure sports, SATs don't measure art,
SATs don't measure music, or the kindness in your heart.
SATs don't see your beauty, SATs don't know your worth,
SATs don't see the reasons you were put upon this earth.
SATs don't see your magic, how you make others smile,
SATs don't time how quickly you can run a mile.
SATs don't hear your laughter, or see you've come this far,
SATs are just a tiny glimpse of who you really are.**

*Again, thank you for your support.
Mrs Stevens and Mrs Lawrence*

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Mental Health

15 to 21 May 2023

Mental Health Awareness Week



Last week we spent more time than usual discussing mental health due to the fact it was highlighted nationally with Mental Health Awareness Week. This will be the last time we will include this as a newsletter item, but please contact the school if you have any worries or need any help... even if it's just for a coffee and a chat. We at Gislingham are here for every member of our family, not just the children! Please also look on the [school website](#) for more guidance and information.

Mrs Schultheiss has gathered a huge amount of information and guidance which may be of some use to you. Please click on the link below to access this support.

W Mental Health Advice and support for...

I would like to thank all the staff here at school for taking the time to complete training and prioritise children's mental health and well-being. Children overwhelmingly feel safe and happy at school because staff put so much effort into the pastoral care of each child.

Junior Road Safety Officers

Last week, Mrs Hall and two representatives of our JRSO team (Amelia and Issy) attended the Parish Council meeting to present all the work they have been doing this year in order to make our

local roads safer places for children. Here is Mrs Hall's message to their parents which sums up the efforts and quality of their work:

Weren't they amazing yesterday? You should be SO proud. To do something such as that so young is astonishing. It will take them far! I shared their success with the staff team and they were all really impressed. We met via Zoom with the lead for JRSOs at the council. She said only one other cohort had ever done that in her decades of doing the job! She was really impressed. We look forward to seeing them in the Messenger.

Many thanks for supporting them and me in making this happen. I said to them today that I will cool off on the meetings a bit and they said "no, we want to do more" WOW!



Photos: Simon Bell

Thank you to Mrs Hall for driving these projects and working so tirelessly with the whole JRSO team!

FOGS Big Painting Day

Sunday saw the FOGS team of children and adults dig out their paint brushes and redecorate the Reception outdoor area as well as have a good tidy up in the garden areas. The very classy new grey fence



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looks fantastic and I am grateful to everyone who joined in to help!



Bawdsey Manor Share Morning

Many parents from Class 4 were able to join us to view photos from our fantastic trip to Bawdsey Manor earlier this month. The photos told the story almost as well as the children's recounts which you can see them sharing in this photo. We rounded off the session with a rendition of 'I got eaten by a Boa Constrictor'!



School Uniform Ordering

Please follow this link to read a letter regarding SchoolTrends uniform shop.

 [DTP letter to parents.docx](#)

Please note, the cut off date for parents placing their orders to ensure delivery before the start of the new term is the 24th July 2023

Cost of Living



Are you entitled?

If you are a family on low income and currently do not claim [Free School Meals](#), [please fill out the form in this link](#), as we can then access further funding for your child in school to help towards school trips, uniform, resources and school meals. Please complete this even if your child is in KS1 and receives free meals anyway, as there is so much more available to you if you are successful. If you need any help with these forms, please ask a member of staff.

YEAR 2 Parents - please remember that your child's entitlement to free school dinners ends when they move into Year 3. If you think you may be able to get free school meals, please complete the online forms. If anyone needs any help with completing these forms to see if you are eligible, please come in and someone will be able to help you.

Coronation Mugs

I would just like to feed back to you that the many messages of thanks that we have received for the lovely donation of Coronation Mugs from our anonymous donor will be duly passed on. I know the appreciation will be well received. I hope

they are taking 'pride of place' in your homes?



YOU SAID... WE DID!

This section is highlighting areas where we have listened to children and parent views and made changes in school as a result of these conversations! Please keep talking to me and together we can adapt and change where necessary for the better.

You said - Many children and adults would like the new house teams to begin in September, rather than this academic year?

We did - There is still time to send in your ideas for new House team names and we will launch these new Houses in September.

You said - Could the children have more to do at lunchtimes?

We did - The newly trained play leaders are out in force with £100s of new equipment for the children to use at break times. It is safe to say that they are enjoying their active times now! Thank you to Jacob in Year 4 for taking home all the 'flat' footballs and pumping them all up for us! What a star!

You said - Next year could we have a wider range of clubs available to children, especially those who are less interested in sport?

We did - This year we have had an art club (thanks Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Berry), but I appreciate our club options could be more varied. I will send out a survey next half term to ascertain which activities / clubs would be of interest and we can then look to staff these.

Next Coffee Morning



Thursday 15th June 2023 – Coffee Morning
9.10am – 10.30am.

You are all invited to join Mr Benstock and other school staff for a coffee and a biscuit. This is not formal, but offers you the chance to chat to the Headteacher about anything and everything, as well as just spending an hour or so with friends.

School Website

Don't forget, you can get more information about school with links to the calendar, policies, menus, governance etc... on the school website.



Dates for your Diaries

Here are some key dates for you, but remember, you can access all key dates on the home page of the school website:

June:

5th - Children return to school
 5th - Phonics Cafe in Year R
 6th - School photographer in for class and team photos.
 6th - Year 5&6 Cricket event
 9th - Class 2 Farm visit
 13th - Year R Farm visit
 15th - Quad Kids Athletics Event
 15th - Coffee Morning
 19th - Bikeability Week starts - Year 5
 21st - New Reception Intake transition morning #1
 22nd - New Reception Intake transition morning #2
 26th - Year 6 Crucial Crew
 28th - Year 4 Music day at the APEX
 28th - Year 6 Hartismere Transition Day #1
 29th - Year 6 Hartismere Transition Day #2
 29th - Whole school move up morning
 29th - New Reception Intake transition day #3
 30th - Class 5 Thorpe Woodlands Trip

July:

3rd - Rounders Event
 4th - SPORTS DAY
 5th - Whole school Art Day
 5th - Year 5 Hartismere open afternoon
 5th - Collective Worship in St. Mary's Church
 7th - FOGS disco
 11th - Footgolf and Just Dance event
 11th - Full SGC meeting
 12th - Class 5 Ancient Greece Day
 13th - Year 6 Beach Trip
 13th - Coffee Morning
 14th - Gislingham Gallery
 17th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly and Party
 21st - Last Day of Term

